

**Planting more Trees**

2198. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any effective plan to encourage people for planting more trees in rural areas in view of the environmental importance of trees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) People's participation has been made a central and integral part of all plantation projects under the major afforestation schemes (viz. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These schemes provide upto 25 percent of the plantation cost of taking up entry point activities for building up awareness etc. amongst local communities, and microplanning with association of panchayats or other village level bodies. Under the central sector scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies, funds are provided to non-governmental organisations for raising trees on private/community/government lands adjacent to forests as per the scheme guidelines and cost norms.

**Encroachment around Kaziranga National Park**

2199. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reserve land in and around Kaziranga National Park in Assam is allowed for unauthorized settlement;

(b) if so, the number of settlers occupying the land both legally

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.